

PILES, BOTH BLIND AND BLEEDING.

A discharge of blood from the hæmorrhoidal vessels is called the bleeding piles. When the vessels only swell, and discharge no blood, but are exceeding painful, the disease is called the blind piles. This discharge, however, is not always to be treated as a disease. It is often more salutary than bleeding at the nose, and often prevents or carries off diseases. It is peculiarly beneficial in the gout, rheumatism, asthma, and hypochondrical complaints, but often proves critical in colics and inflammatory fevers. In the management of the patient regard must be had to his habits of body, age, strength and manner of living; a discharge which might be excessive and prove hurtful to some may be very moderate and even salutary to others; that only is esteemed dangerous which continues too long and is in such quantity as to waste the patient's strength, hurt the digestion, nutrition, and other functions necessary to life. The Peruvian bark is proper in this case, both as a strengthener and an astringent; half a drachm of the prepared powder of Peruvian bark may be taken in any convenient liquor, four times a day. The bleeding piles are sometimes periodical, and return regularly once a month or three weeks. In this case they are always to be considered as a salutary discharge, and by no means to be stopped. In the blind piles bleeding is sometimes of use. The diet in either case should be light and thin, and the drink cool, and the body should be kept gently open. When the piles are exceedingly painful and swelled, but discharge nothing, the patient must sit over the steam of onion or leek water, and afterwards apply a poultice made of leeks fried with butter, or a rag dipped in it. Another method that will help, and not hinder in business, is this: get a quantity of leeks; press the juice out of them, and mix the juice with a little bees' wax melted, apply with the finger, keeping the piles continually moist therewith. The juice pressed from blackberries are serviceable for the piles, both drank and outwardly applied; the condensate juice or the distilled water of blackberries may be obtained at some druggists. The herb plantane or plantain helpeth if outwardly applied. Great relief may be experienced, when necessary, by applying leeches upon the